Royal visit to CPD training facility

It was pomp and ceremony time at 125 Grays Inn Road as the UCL Eastman Continuing Professional Development team prepared to welcome HRH the Princess Royal, Princess Anne.

The visit was to officially open the new state of the art clinical teaching facility and unveil a plaque to commemorate the occasion.

The new facility is based on the fourth floor of the UCL Eastman CPD building and comprises five new dental chairs equipped with microscopes and digital radiography, a cone beam scanner, a skills laboratory and a lecture facility.

There was a great presence from the dental community for the visit from academics and lecturers to students and dental suppliers who had fitted out the facility.

The official part of the day began with a programme of speeches to put the new facility in the context of furthering knowledge and stimulating excellence in education. Prof Andrew Eder, director at UCL Eastman CPD, began the programme with a presentation of the background of what the school had achieved since its establishment in 1999 with regards to continuous education and the importance of health, while also recognising that one fundamental challenge is to get the people who could benefit most from dental care to access it appropriately.

Wrapping up the speeches was Prof Malcolm Grant CBE, UCL President and Provost. He emphasised the importance of the joining of UCL and the Eastman together, especially in the field of interdisciplinary research. He stated that they all had a mission to make a difference to patients, and it was the universities that held the key to driving investment and recovery in the UK.

The Princess was then taken on a tour of both the old and new clinical skills facility, meeting with staff and graduates before unveiling the commemorative plaque and signing the visitor’s book. She was then presented with a posy by Deborah Eder as a token of appreciation from UCL Eastman CPD.

It was a great day for UCL Eastman CPD and having visited the new facility I was extremely impressed with the quality and attention to detail in the design. Even the skills laboratory had made the highest use of space with student’s needs in mind (although being in there did allow me to rediscover my fear of phantoms). I look forward to visiting the facility again and hearing about the work UCL Eastman CPD are doing for dental education.

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